

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 04317 091540Z

73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 IO-11 OMB-01 /084 W

----- 129728

R 091405Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8898

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4317

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET SU

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN/SUDANESE RELATIONS: WARM OR COOL?

REF: A. KHARTOUM 0943; B. KHARTOUM 0966

SUMMARY: IN SPITE OF IMPROVED ETHIOPIAN/SUDANESE RELATIONS
HERALDED IN REFTELS, APR 9 PMAC PRESS STATEMENT CONDEMINING
"OFFICIALS OF CERTAIN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES" DEMONSTRATES
BILATERAL PROBLEMS STILL HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY RESOLVED.
END SUMMARY

1. IN A CONVERSATION APR 8, SUDANESE EMBOFF JAFAR REFERRED
TO FINMIN KIFLE'S PRESS CONFERENCE (REF B) WITH SATISFACTION.
ETHIOPIANS HAD "ALMOST APOLOGIZED" FOR BOMBING INCIDENT AND
HAD AGREED TO REACTIVATE THE MMINISTERIAL CONSULTATIVE COM-
MITTEE. THIS COMMITTEE, JAFAR SAID, WOULD PROBABLY MEET
DURING THE FIRST OR SECOND WEEK OF MAY. JAFAR ALSO STATED
THAT KIFLE HAD QUERIED GOS ON TROOP MOVEMENTS NEAR PORT SUDAN
(CF PARA 2, REF A), AND HAD APPARENTLY BEEN SATISFIED
BY SUDANESE REPLY THAT MOVEMENTS WERE MINOR IN NATURE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 04317 091540Z

AND NOT DIRECTED AGAINST EPMG.

2. MOFA AF DIRECTOR BERHANU DINKA CONFIRMED "SUCCESSFUL KIFLE VISIT" TO KHARTOUM AND EXPRESSED HOPE BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD REMAIN IMPROVED. HE CONFIRMED EPMG'S ACCEPTANCE OF GOS EXPLANATION OF MANEUVERS. BERHANU ALSO EXPRESSED EPMG'S PLEASURE AT REACTIVATION OF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND SAID EPMG BELIEVED GOS WAS GENUINELY TRYING TO EXERT MORE CONTROL OVER SHIPMENTS OF SUPPLIES TO E/PLF FORCES ACROSS SUDANESE/ETHIOPIAN BORDER.

3. IN SPITE OF HIS HOPES, BERHANU WAS GUARDED IN HIS OPTIMISM RE FUTURE ETHIOPIAN/SUDANESE RELATIONS. SOUTHERN SUDANESE REFUGEES CONTINUE TO CROSS INTO ETHIOPIA AT RATE OF 50-60 PER WEEK. THESE WERE NOT "ORDINARY REFUGEES, "I.E., FARMERS AND HERDERS, HE SAID, BUT POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS PEOPLE, INCLUDING SOME FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS. SITUATION IN SOUTHERN SUDAN, THEREFORE, CONTINUES TO WORRY EPMG.

4. ON THE HEELS OF LOCAL PUBLICITY EXTOLLING CLOSE ETHIOPIAN/SUDANESE RELATIONS, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ETHIOPIAN HERALD PUBLISHED ARTICLE ON APR 9 CALLING FOR MASSES TO UNITE TO DEAL REACTIONAIRES FINAL BLOW. ARTICLE, EXCERPTING FROM A PMAC STATEMENT, STATED THAT EPMG FOREIGN POLICY "HAS BEEN MISCONSTRUED BY OFFICIALS OF CERTAIN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES." THESE OFFICIALS, STATEMENT SAID, HAVE REPEATEDLY INTERFERED IN THE "REVOLUTION OF THE ETHIOPIAN MASSES AND IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY." STATEMENT THEN CITES THE EXAMPLE OF A "PROPOSAL" (SIC) MADE BY AN "AFRICAN AFFAIRS ADVISOR TO THE HEAD OF STATE OF A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY" TO ITS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THIS "DEPICTED ETHIOPIA AS THOUGH IT WAS IN A STATE OF CHAOS, CONFUSION, AMONG THE PEOPLE AND DISSENSION AMONG THE RANK FNA FILE OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE PROPOSAL HAD TRIED TO ANALYSE THE ERITREAN SITUATION IN A MANNER DETRIMENTAL TO ETHIOPIA'S UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY."

5. JAFAR BELIEVES STATEMENT IS DIRECTED AGAINST SUDAN AND KHALID HASSAN ABBAS, FORMER AFRICAN AFFAIRS ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT NIMEIRI WHO VISITED ETHIOPIA EARLIER THIS YEAR. JAFAR IS AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 04317 091540Z

SUCH A STRONG ATTACK. HE OPINES THAT REPORTS ARE TRUE OF INCREASED ANTI-EPMG ACTIVITY IN TIGRE (WHICH RECEIVES LOGISTICAL SUPPORT VIA SUDAN) AND THIS IS THE EPMG'S WAY OF "GETTING BACK AT THE GOS" FOR ALLOWING SUCH MATERIAL TO TRANSIT SUDAN.

6. COMMENT: STATEMENT AND ARTICLE COULD BE ANOTHER INSTANCE OF EPMG'S MININFO HAND NOT KNOWING (OR CARING) WHAT MOFA HAND

IS DOING, REPORTS ABOUND HERE OF MININFO ISSUING STATEMENTS
WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN CLEARED BY THE PMAC AND FOR WHICH IT
IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE. END COMMENT.
HUMMEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS04317
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760136-0110
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760480/aaaacqez.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KHARTOUM 943, 76 KHARTOUM 966
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIOPIAN/SUDANESE RELATIONS: WARM OR COOL?
TAGS: PFOR, ET, SU, (KIFLE WODAJO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006